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(71) Applicant
Paul Henry Elcock,
13 Village Centre,
Leverstock Green,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire
(72) Inventor
Paul Henry Elcock
(74) Agents
Fitzpatricks,
Kern House,
61/62 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London,
WC2B 6EX

(54) Materials for providing wall and ceiling surfaces

(57) A material for providing a wall or ceiling surface has a particulate ferromagnetic material distributed substantially uniformly in it. The material for example comprises a paint or plaster material and the ferromagnetic material such as mild steel or ferrite is in the form of a fine powder. The ferromagnetic properties of a wall surface provided by using a material as described can be used to secure items e.g. wall paper, skirting boards, tiles, coving or pictures to the wall surface using magnetic force rather than conventional adhesives.

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SPECIFICATION

Materials for providing wall and ceiling surfaces

This invention relates to materials used for providing a wall or ceiling surface. Thus the invention has application to coating materials for walls and to the core material of building panels.

According to the invention such a material has a particulate ferromagnetic material distributed substantially uniformly in it. Apart from the presence of the ferromagentic material the material may be a conventional coating for example a paint or a plaster or a core material.

When the coating is applied as a paint, the ferromagnetic material may be obtained from an iron oxide pigment containing Fe_3O_4 ferromagnetic by screening all the Fe_3O_4 from it. The paint is then formulated using the Fe_3O_4 as one constituent and preferably a slightly conductive media. The consistency of the paint is preferably such that it would paint to a coating of 1 mm thickness.

If the material is applied to a wall or ceiling as a water based coating, preferably the ferromagnetic particles have a non-oxidising coating for example of plastics material.

When said material comprises a plaster material the ferromagnetic material is preferably in the form of a fine powder of for example ground mild steel or ferrite. On a dry basis by volume the material advantageously comprises about 60% plaster and 40% ferromagnetic material. For the utilisation described hereinafter of a wall surface provided by using the material according to the invention, preferably the material is applied as a coating or core material of at least about 12 mm thickness.

The ferromagnetic properties of a wall surface provided by using the material according to the invention can be utilised to secure items to the wall surface using magnetic force rather than using conventional adhesives and mechanical fixing devices.

One such item comprises wall coverings such as wallpapers. Preferably magnetised material is applied to the rear surface of the wallpaper in the form of magnetic strips or tapes so that when the wallpaper is offered to the wall surface it adheres to it by magnetic force but can nevertheless be wiped smooth. Strips or tapes are for example applied along the two longitudinal edges of the wallpaper and at least one intermediate the two longitudinal edges and a series of spaced transverse strips or tapes are applied at intervals along the length of the wallpaper each transverse strip or tape extending to the longitudinal edges of the wallpaper.

Other examples of items which can be secured to the wall surface by magnetic force are skirting boards, wall and ceiling tiles, covering, pictures. In these cases small permanent magnets can be secured to the items or embodied in them during their manufacture.

Claims

1. A material for providing a wall or ceiling surface having a particulate ferromagnetic material distributed substantially uniformly in it.

2. A material according to Claim 1 and comprising a paint.

3. A material according to Claim 2, wherein the ferromagnetic material is Fe_3O_4 obtained from an iron oxide pigment.

4. A material according to Claim 1 and comprising a plaster material and said ferromagentic material is in the form of a fine powder.

5. A material according to Claim 4, wherein on a dry basis by volume said material comprises about 60% plaster and 40% ferromagnetic material.

6. A wall or ceiling surface formed by a material according to any preceding claim, and an item secured to said wall surface by magnetic force.

7. The combination of a wall surface formed by a material according to any of Claims 1 to 5 and a wall covering secured to the wall surface by magnetic force.

8. The combination according to Claim 7 wherein magnetised material is applied to the rear surface of the wall covering as strips along the two longitudinal edges thereof and as a series of spaced transverse strips or tapes extending along the length of the wall covering.

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